

"SUBCHAPTER C—PATIENT PROTECTION STANDARDS"**"SEC. 9821. PATIENT PROTECTION STANDARDS."**

"Each group health plan shall comply with patient protection requirements under title I of the Bipartisan Patient Protection Act, and each health insurance issuer shall comply with patient protection requirements under such title with respect to group health insurance coverage it offers, and such requirements shall be deemed to be incorporated into this section."

(b) APPLICATION TO EMPLOYERS WITH FEWER THAN 2 EMPLOYEES.—Section 9831(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "this chapter" and inserting "this chapter (other than section 9821, with respect to the application of section 122 of the Bipartisan Patient Protection Act)".

After section 301, insert the following:

SEC. 301A. APPLICATION TO EMPLOYERS WITH FEWER THAN 2 EMPLOYEES.

Section 732(a) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1191a(a)) is amended by striking "section 711" and inserting "sections 711 and 714(a) (with respect to the application of section 122 of the Bipartisan Patient Protection Act)".

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 28, 2001. The purpose of this hearing will be to discuss the next Federal farm bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 28, 2001, at 2:30 p.m., in open session to receive testimony on the fiscal year 2002 budget amendment, in review of the Defense authorization request for fiscal year 2002 and the Future Years Defense Program.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during these session of the Senate on June 28, 2001, to conduct a hearing on "The Reauthorization of the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 28 at 9:30 a.m. to conduct an oversight hearing. The committee will receive testimony on science and technology studies on climate change.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on

Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 28, 2001, at 2 p.m. to hold a hearing titled, "Zimbabwe's Political and Economic Crisis" as follows:

WITNESSES

Panel 1: Walter H. Kansteiner, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Department of State, Washington, DC.

Panel 2: Professor Robert Rotberg, President, World Peace Foundation, Cambridge, MA.

Yves Sorokobi, Africa Director, Committee to Protect Journalists, New York, NY.

Mr. John Prendergast, International Crisis Group, Washington, DC.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet Thursday, June 28, 2001, at 9:30 am for a hearing regarding "The Impact of Electric Industry Restructuring on System Reliability."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 28, 2001, at 10 a.m., to receive testimony from Members of the House of Representatives on election reform.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 28, 2001, at 10 a.m., in room 418 of the Russell Senate Office Building, for a hearing on pending veterans' benefits legislation as follows:

S. 1090: Cost-of-living adjustment for veterans' benefits. Sponsor: Senator ROCKEFELLER.

S. 1089: U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC) succession plan to address judges retiring in 2004/2005. Repeals the NOD as a jurisdictional threshold for appearing before the CAVC. Sponsor: Senator ROCKEFELLER.

S. 1091: (1) Eliminates the 30-year limit on manifestation from time of exposure for the presumption of service connection for Agent Orange-related respiratory cancer; (2) Restores a VA presumption, eliminated by a Court decision, that in-country Vietnam veterans were exposed to Agent Orange; (3) tasks the National Academy of Sciences to continue reporting on Agent Orange and its association with disease for 10 more years (5 reports). Sponsor: Senator ROCKEFELLER.

S. 1063: CAVC-requested bill pertaining to administrative matters. Sponsor: Senator ROCKEFELLER.

S. 1088. Creates flexibility for MGIB to pay for high tech/short-term courses. Sponsor: Senator ROCKEFELLER.

S. 1093: Miscellaneous veterans' benefits provisions (based on informal input from VA):

COMPENSATION

a. Eliminate compensation for incarcerated persons—We previously enacted legislation to reduce compensation to incarcerated veterans to the equivalent of 10 percent, disability compensation (or, if they only received 10 percent, to the equivalent of 5 percent). Veterans that were already incarcerated were grandfathered out of the reduction. This change would stop only future payments to these veterans.

b. Reduce benefits for fugitive felons—Currently, veterans who are fugitive from justice are eligible to receive VA benefits. This would bar them from receiving benefits while a fugitive (fleeing prosecution, confinement for a felony, or in violation of a condition of probation or parole).

c. Duty to assist (technical corrections).

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Eliminate the cap of 500 veteran participants in Voc Rehab's "Independent Living" program. The cap was set when the program was initially piloted. While the time limit on the program was repealed, the cap on participants was not. VA has not turned any one away from the program, but has been exceeding 500 veterans in the last couple of years. The goal of the program is to assist a veteran who is too disabled to retrain for employment to achieve and maintain a stated independent living outcome.

LOAN GUARANTY

Increase the home loan guaranty amount to \$63,175 from the current \$50,750, to keep pace with FHA (and the even higher Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac). The VA amount has not been increased since 1994.

EDUCATION

Overturn court decision eliminating the delimiting date for use of chapter 35 educational benefits by surviving spouses. The spouse would be allowed to choose the beginning date of the eligibility period. It could be any date between the effective date of the rating of the veteran's service-connected disability as permanently and totally disabling, and the date VA notified the veteran of this fact. A 10-year period would run from the date the spouse chose.

PENSION

a. Excludes life insurance proceeds from countable income for determination of nonservice-connected death pension eligibility for poor surviving spouses of wartime veterans. Currently, counting life insurance could make the spouse ineligible for a year. Modifies effective date of beginning benefits.

b. Modifies the requirement for pensioners to report changes in income at the end of the month, to the end of the year.

S. 131: To increase the rate of the basic benefit of MGIB to the average cost of tuition next fiscal year, and then modify the annual COLA to be pegged to educational inflation. Sponsor: Senator JOHNSON.

S. 228: To make permanent the Native American veterans housing loan

program. The program is set to expire in 2002. Sponsor: Senator AKAKA.

S. 409: To clarify the standards for compensation for Persian Gulf veterans suffering from certain undiagnosed illnesses and to extend Persian Gulf compensation presumption. Sponsor: Senator HUTCHISON.

S. 457: To establish a presumption of service connection for certain veterans with hepatitis C. Sponsor: Senator SNOWE.

S. 662: To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish headstones or markers for marked graves of, or to otherwise commemorate, certain individuals if buried after November 1, 1990. Sponsor: Senator DODD.

S. 781: To extend the authority for housing loan guaranties for members of the Selected Reserve now set to expire in 2007. Sponsor: Senator AKAKA.

S. 912: To increase burial benefits for veterans from \$300 to \$1,135 and from \$1,500 to \$3,713, and plot allowances from \$150 to \$670. Also, to index future increases to the CPI. Sponsor: Senator KULSKI.

S. 937: To permit the relevant Secretary to transfer entitlement to MGIB educational assistance from members of the Armed Forces to their dependents for up to 18 months of benefits, and allow them to receive the payment as an accelerated payment for a term/semester (solely upon the discretion of the Secretary). Sponsor: Senator CLELAND.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet on Thursday, June 28, 2001, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. in Dirksen 226 for the purpose of conducting a hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AND MERCHANT MARINE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on June 28, 2001, at 2:30 p.m., on Surface Transportation Board Rail Merger Rules.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 1077

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 1 p.m., Monday, July 9, the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 76, S. 1077, the supplemental appropriations bill; that the bill be considered under the following limitations: that the only first-degree amendments in order other than a managers' amendment be the following list which is at the desk; that all listed amendments must be offered by 6 p.m. Monday, July 9, with the exception of the managers' amendment; that the managers or designees be authorized to offer any listed first-degree amendment in order for that amendment to qualify under the deadline; that any listed first-degree amendment

be subject to relevant second-degree amendments; that any time limitation for debate on a first-degree amendment specified in this agreement then a second-degree amendment to that amendment would be accorded the same time limit; further, that upon disposition of the above amendments, the bill be advanced to third reading and the Senate then proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 77, H.R. 2216; that all after the enacting clause be stricken and the text of S. 1077, as amended, be inserted in lieu thereof; that the bill be advanced to third reading and the Senate then vote on passage of the bill, with no intervening action or debate; finally, I ask unanimous consent that S. 1077 be returned to the calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The list of amendments is as follows:

Biden amendment re: Relevant,
Bond amendment re: Department of Defense,

Bond amendment re: Corp of Engineers,
Boxer amendment re: Sudden Oak Death,
Boxer amendment re: Path 15,
Byrd amendment re: Relevant,
Byrd amendment re: Relevant to any on list,

Cleland amendment re: B-1 bomber transportation,

Conrad amendment re: Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation,

Conrad amendment re: Devil's Lake,
Conrad amendment re: Relevant,

Craig amendment re: Relevant,
Daschle amendment re: Relevant,
Daschle amendment re: Relevant to any on list,

Feingold amendment re: Relevant,
Feingold amendment re: Klamath Basin,
Feinstein amendment re: Klamath Basin,

Hutchinson (AR) amendment re: AR ice storms,

Inouye amendment re: Relevant,
Johnson amendment re: Relevant,
Lott amendment re: Relevant,

Lott amendment re: Relevant to any on list,

McCain amendment re: Defense,
McCain amendment re: Dept. of Defense with a time limit of 2 hours equally divided and controlled,

Nickles amendment re: Relevant,
Miller amendment re: B-1 bomber transportation,

Reid (NV) amendment re: Relevant,
Reid (NV) amendment re: Relevant to any on list,

Roberts amendment re: B-1 bombers,
Schumer amendment re: IRS,
Schumer amendment re: Relevant,

(4) Smith (OR) amendment re: Klamath Falls,

Stevens amendment re: Relevant,
Stevens amendment re: Relevant to any on list,

Voinovich amendment re: Social Security Lock Box,

Warner amendment re: Building naming,
Wellstone amendment re: LIHEAP.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 2001

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business tonight, it adjourn until the hour of 9 a.m. tomorrow, Friday, June 29. I further ask consent that on Friday, immediately following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day,

and the Senate resume consideration of the Patients' Bill of Rights.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator DASCHLE, I announce that tomorrow we will convene at 9 a.m. and that shortly thereafter, as soon as the prayer and pledge are completed, we will resume consideration of the Patients' Bill of Rights, with the votes as outlined previously in the unanimous consent request.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 10:30 p.m., adjourned until Friday, June 29, 2001, at 9 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate June 28, 2001:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LINDA MYSLIWIY CONLIN, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, VICE MICHAEL J. COPPS, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

DAN R. BROUILLETTE, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ENERGY (CONGRESSIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS), VICE JOHN C. ANGELL, RESIGNED.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

DONALD R. SCHREGARDUS, OF OHIO, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, VICE STEVEN ALAN HERMAN, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

STUART A. BERNSTEIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO DENMARK.

CHARLES A. HEIMBOLD, JR., OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO SWEDEN.

INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

CAROLE BROOKINS, OF INDIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS, VICE JAN PIERCY, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

H. T. JOHNSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY, VICE ROBERT B. PRIRIE, JR., RESIGNED.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. PAUL V. HESTER, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. LANCE L. SMITH, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. THOMAS C. WASKOW, 0000